

TOT: 110337Z JUL 91

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] BIO INFORMATION ON COLONEL NELSON IVAN
((LOPEZ)) Y LOPEZ

1. WITH THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL NELSON IVAN ((LOPEZ)) Y LOPEZ (SUBJECT) AS HEAD OF THE DNI, [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND AND BIO INFORMATION ON LOPEZ MAY BE USEFUL

[REDACTED]

2. LOPEZ WAS BORN ON 27 MAY 1945 IN SAN MIGUEL, EL SALVADOR. SUBJECT HAS COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF STUDIES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL. LOPEZ'S EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND THE DATES AND NAMES OF INSTITUTES ATTENDED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1952 TO 1958 - ATTENDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT INSTITUTO CATOLICO DE ORIENTE

1958 TO 1962 - ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL AT NACIONAL ORIENTE

LOPEZ GRADUATED FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR, HOWEVER HIS DATES OF ATTENDANCE ARE NOT KNOWN.

3. ADDITIONAL STUDIES PARTICULAR TO SUBJECT'S MILITARY CAREER, POSITIONS HELD, AND DATES OF PROMOTIONS ARE LISTED BELOW:

1965 TO 1968 - CADET AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY GENERAL GERARDO BARRIOS

1968 - UNDERTOOK MILITARY STUDIES AT THE CANAL ZONE (IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT THESE STUDIES ENTAILED)

Approved for Release

NOV 1993

1968 TO 1970 - SECTION COMMANDER WITH THE FIRST BRIGADE

JANUARY 1968 - PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF SECOND LIEUTENANT

1970 TO 1971 - ATTENDED MILITARY BRANCH TRAINING AT
BRIGADA DE ARTILLERIA

1970 TO 1972 - SECTION COMMANDER OF 105 HOWITZER BATTERY
OF THE FIRST BRIGADE

AUGUST 1972 - PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF FIRST LIEUTENANT

1972-1976 - INSTRUCTOR OF THE FIRING BATTERY 105 HOWITZER
BATTERY

1976 - PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN

1976 - SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT AT FORT STILL, OKLAHOMA

1976 TO 1980 - INSTRUCTOR OF TACTICS AND FIRING, BATTERY
SCHOOL

1980 TO 1981 - S-3 AT ARTILLERY BRIGADE

1981 - PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR

1982 TO 1984 - SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT TO ARGENTINA

1984 - PROMOTED TO RANK OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL

1985 - DM4, THIRD BRIGADE, SAN FRANCISCO GOTERA (MORAZAN)

SEPTEMBER 1988 - STUDIED AT THE FBI ACADEMY

1988 TO JUNE 1989 - COMMANDER OF THE EXECUTIVE UNIT OF THE
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT (SIU)

JUNE 1989 TO FEBRUARY 1990 - HEAD OF THE C-I OF THE JOINT
GENERAL STAFF

OCTOBER 1990 TO PRESENT - COMMANDER OF THE ENGINEER
DETACHMENT, DM-3 (DM'ING)

4. LOPEZ IS THE LEADER OF THE 1968 TANDA AND ACCORDING TO
THE DATT, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST OFFICERS. LOPEZ HAS BEEN
DESCRIBED IN VARIOUS DOD CABLES AS A COMMANDER WHO LIKES TO
PARTICIPATE WITH HIS OFFICERS IN ALL ACTIVITIES. LOPEZ

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REPORTEDLY KEEPS HIS OFFICERS INFORMED ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO OPERATIONS, TACTICS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, AND IS KNOWN AS AN AGGRESSIVE COMMANDER WHO PERSONALLY INVOLVES HIMSELF IN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE FMLN. LOPEZ, AS COMMANDER OF THE DM'ING HAS BEEN COMPLIMENTED FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS TROOPS AND THE LOCAL POPULACE, AS WELL AS HIS LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITIES.

5. FROM THE LATE 1990'S TO THE PRESENT, ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT LOPEZ WAS INVOLVED IN THE COVER UP, OR INSTIGATION OF THE JESUIT MURDERS. SOME OF THESE ACCUSATIONS MAY BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT LOPEZ WAS ASSIGNED BY GENERAL RENE EMILIO ((PONCE)), THEN CHIEF OF STAFF AT THE ESTADO MAYOR, TO ASSIST THE SIU IN THE INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE JESUIT MURDERS. LOPEZ LATER LEFT THE SIU WHEN PRESIDENT CRISTIANI APPOINTED A MILITARY HONOR BOARD TO INVESTIGATE THE JESUIT MURDERS, ON 6 JANUARY 1990. ONLY A FEW REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING LOPEZ, HOWEVER, THESE HAVE BEEN BRIEFLY OUTLINED BELOW.

6.

LOPEZ TESTIFIED IN SEPTEMBER 1990 THAT DURING A 15 NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING AT THE ESTADO MAYOR, HE HAD NEVER INFORMED COLONEL CARLOS ARMANDO ((AVILES)) OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GUILLERMO ALFREDO ((BENAVIDES)) MORENO AND LT COL MANUEL ((RIVAS)) MEJIA, IN WHICH BENAVIDES ADMITTED HAVING ORDERED THE MURDER OF THE JESUITS. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ' TESTIMONY, HE HAD NO IDEA "DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME" (NOVEMBER 1989) THAT BENAVIDES MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER.

7.

LOPEZ' NAME WAS INCLUDED ON A LIST OF ESAF OFFICERS THAT THE FMLN BELIEVED WERE GUILTY OF COVERING UP THE JESUIT MURDER INVESTIGATION. [] JULY 1991 [] STATED THAT LOPEZ WAS ONE OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED BY THE LEGAL PROSECUTORS FOR THE SALVADORAN JESUIT ORDER AS INSTIGATING THE JESUIT MURDERS.

8. AS OF 1976, LOPEZ WAS MARRIED TO LILIAN ((SANTAMARIA)) DE LOPEZ, AND HAD ONE CHILD. ANA LOUISA ((LOPEZ)) SANTAMARIA, SUBJECT'S DAUGHTER, WAS BORN ON AUGUST 15 1974. SUBJECT STATED HE HAD ONE RELATIVE LIVING IN THE U.S., DR. RENE ((LOPEZ)) Y LOPEZ OF AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. LOPEZ IS SAID TO ENJOY BASKETBALL,

SINGING, MUSIC, TV, AND DANCING.